

United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill Middle District of Florida

FAX: (813) 274-6300

TampaOrlandoJacksonvilleOcalaFort MyersFOR IMMEDIATE RELEASECONTACT: WILLIAM DANIELSApril 5, 2011PHONE: (813) 274-6388

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PINELLAS COUNTY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGE

Tampa, Florida - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces that Timothy J. Strong (56, Safety Harbor) pleaded guilty yesterday to possession of child pornography. Strong faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison. Strong has agreed to forfeit computer media used as part of the crime and must register under federal and state laws as a sex offender.

According to the plea agreement, Strong possessed over 1,700 images of child pornography at the time a search warrant was executed at his home, in May 2010.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Sara C. Sweeney.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhoood.gov.